

In Honor of Hamilton

What's the message of My Shot?
I am not throwing away my shot.
He talks of his power of speech.
Keeping his eye on the prize.

YOU have a voice; let it be heard.
You have a choice; sitting back is not an option.
You do very important work.

These are very challenging, yet exciting times in higher education.
We have to *rise up, rise up* and stop the revolving door of college completion.
Continue the outstanding research and innovations.
Be flexible to respond to a changing marketplace.

Focus on quality and accountability.
Keep pushing back against state disinvestment.
Open the doors to all learners, through diversity and globalization.
Be prepared to help each and every student succeed.
Your jobs are not easy, but know you make a remarkable difference for this country.

To put it in the Hamilton style:

Provide the education.
Write your own narration.
Celebrate convocation.
Strive for graduation.
Make a strong declaration.
Let hate cause indignation.
Fight political machination.

Incite appropriate activation
Weigh in on legislation
Proactive provocation
Start the conversation!

It's all about the learning.
Students' dreams, not just earnings.
Their passion must be burning.
Follow *your* hearts; fulfill the yearning.

One thousand colleges, **nineteen states**.
State by state, by state, by state

Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,
Minnesota, Missouri
More states (Time to Breathe!)
Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West
Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming

State-by-state, by state, by state
Get out there and navigate.

It's *you*, it's *you* and *you* and *you*.
Higher learning in **every state**.

YOUR work makes America great!

Barbara Gellman-Danley, President
Higher Learning Commission, April 2017